Losses of Super Bazar, Delhi

467. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss incurred by the Super Bazar, Delhi during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to streamline its administration, and

(c) whether any enquiry is proposed to be conducted into the mismanagement in Super Bazar, Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Cooperative Store Ltd., New Delhi popularly known as Super Bazar, did not incur any loss during the last three years; 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84. The working of the Super Bazar is reviewed by the Department of Civil Supplies from time to time and suggestions whenever considered necessary are given for streamlining and improving its working. There is no proposal at present to hold an enquiry into the working of Super Bazar.

Wheat Stocks

468. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge stock of wheat has accumulated in the country;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to dispose of the accumulated stock of wheat;

(c) whether negotiations to export wheat to other countries have been initiated; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir; at present, the stocks of wheat are in excess of the level required under the buffer-stocking policy. Some of the steps being taken to liquidate the excess stocks are:—

(i) increase in the monthly allocation of wheat for public distribution system;

(ii) allocation to the roller flour mills to the extent of their full licensed capacity at Rs. 172 per quintal instead of Rs. 200 per quintal;

(iii) permitting the roller flour mills to produce 25 per cent more than their licensed monthly capacity;

(iv) increasing allotment under National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme from one kilogram per manday upto two kilograms;

(v) issuing wheat through the public distrbuton system upto a full months requirement at a time;

(vi) permitting export of wheat, maida, suji and wholemeal atta.

(c) and (d) Food Corporation of India has already entered into a contract with Exportkhleb, Moscow, for supply of 5 lakh tonnes of wheat to the U. S. S. R. Besides this a quantity of 1 lakh tonnes of wheat is also being supplied as aid to the drought affected African countries. Efforts are also being made to export wheat to other countries.

Export of Wheat

469. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's efforts to export wheat to liquidate the accumulated stock have failed to yield results;

(b) whether it is also a fact that price offered by the Indian Government is much higher than the ruling international prices; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the measures proposed to be taken by Government to offer wheat at a more competitive price?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH (a) to (c) Food Corporation of India has so far entered into a contract for export of 5 lakh tonnes of wheat to U.S.S.R. There is stiff competition in the international market for export of wheat and the prices are at present ruling low. Efforts are, however, being made to export more quantities of wheat.

Low Cost Housing Technology

470. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some research on low cost housing technology has been conducted by Government recently;

(b) if so, what is the result thereof;

(c) whether experiments of the new technologies have also been conducted by Government; and

(d) whether the experiments have proved successful?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): (a) and (b) Such researches are being conducted at various research institutions as a result of which a number of new and improved technologies for reducing cost of construction, effecting savings in scarce building materials like cement, steel and timber and speedier construction processes have been developed.

(c) and (d) The NBO coordinates Research in Building and Housing and disseminates the results for adoption in practice. It also applies to results in Experimental|Demonstration Housing Schemes. Such experiments have proved to be successful.

Commercial Advertisement in Rural Areas

471. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched commercial advertising in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, what is the number of radio stations, State-wise, that would broadcast commercial advertisements;

(c) the amount of money the new programme is expected to fetch; and

(d) wheher advertisements considered to be useful for the rural development will be given some concessions also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Commercials have been introduced on primary Channels of AIR Stations which cover urban as well as rural areas.

(b) The state-wise list of AIR stations broadcasting Commercial advertisements on their primary channel is enclosed. (*See below*).

(c) The new advertisement revenue is expected to be around Rs. 1.5 crores per year.

(d) The rates of advertisements for sports and sponsorship items in Rural| Farm programmes are less than the rates for Film|light music (Indian & Western) including listener's choice, plays and other popular programmes.

Statement

List of Stations broadcast commercial on the primary channel

Gujarat:

1. Ahmedabad
2. Rajkot
3. Baroda